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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Nicholson Broughton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Richmond Field Division; Donald Thompson, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division; and James Powers, Fredericksburg Police Chief, announced the conviction yesterday of Omar Jermal Dixon, age 27, of Fredericksburg, Virginia. After a two-day trial, a federal jury convicted Dixon of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base, commonly known as "crack;" possession with intent to distribute phencyclidine, commonly known as "PCP," and two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Because Dixon was previously convicted of a felony drug distribution charge, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years incarceration and a maximum of life, plus \$8,000,000 in fines. United States District Judge James R. Spencer scheduled sentencing for December 17, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. Several of Dixon's co-conspirators testified that from 1998 to 2002, Dixon was responsible for bringing multiple kilograms of cocaine base from Washington D.C. to the Fredericksburg and King George County areas of Virginia for distribution. Some of these witnesses testified that Dixon distributed quantities of PCP over the same period. Both the defendants' felon-in-possession of firearm convictions stemmed from shootings. The first related to the June 5, 2001, shooting of Nathaniel White, at the Mayfield Carwash in Fredericksburg. The

second related to the May 24, 2002, drive-by shooting of John Clark on Interstate I-95 in Fredericksburg. Both White and Clark were seriously injured.

The case was jointly investigated by agents of the DEA, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Fredericksburg Police Department. The case was prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney Brian R. Hood and Special Assistant United States Attorney Shannon L. Taylor.